Kingsbridge Rural District Council

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REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the Year, 1966

KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.
Telephone: Kingsbridge 2246/7.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health: R. B. WALKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Resigned October, 1966)

Acting Medical Officer of Health: JOHN WILDMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Appointed November, 1966)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health: W. H. COWPER, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.

Chief Public Health Inspector: D. J. COLE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector: C. H. BRICE, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Assistant: MRS. S. M. HINGLEY.

KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE AREA DURING 1966

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present, herewith, the Annual Report on the health of the area during 1966, drawn up in accordance with the requirements of Ministry of Health Circular 1/67 dated January, 1967. Included in this Report is the Report of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

During the year your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. R. B. Walker, resigned and emigrated to Canada. He had been Medical Officer of Health for eleven years. The undersigned was appointed Acting Medical Officer of Health on 1st November, 1966.

Vital Statistics

The Registrar General estimated that the mid-year population increased by 210 persons to a total of 11,810 persons, mainly by inward migration into the area.

Births and Deaths were almost equal and their Rates compared very favourably with the National Rates.

A total of 86 deaths (54%) was due to diseases of the heart and circulation and 30 deaths (19%) were due to cancer. One third of the cancer deaths were due to lung cancer, and one cannot help thinking of the connection between cigarette smoking and lung cancer.

Notifiable Diseases

Very few infectious diseases were notified, the largest number being 11 cases of measles. There were no cases of food poisoning.

Provisions of Health Services for the Area

The personal health services are provided by various bodies, by far the greater part being under the control of the Regional Hospital Board, Devon County Council and the Local Executive Council. The environmental health services are controlled by the District Council.

The Public Health Laboratory Service has a laboratory in Plymouth for the investigation of communicable diseases and the examination of milk, water, ice cream, foodstuffs, etc.

The Devon County Health Handbook gives details of the health and allied social services in the County of Devon. Much of its information refers to the County as a whole, but there are details of the various services provided in this district.

Water Supply

Water is supplied by the South West Devon Water Board. The sources remain the same being chiefly for this district from the Avon Reservoir, with additional water on occasion from the Ranney Works on the River Dart.

The water is treated by flocculation and filtration. It is chlorinated and the pH is adjusted. The quality is of a high standard and it is adequate in quantity for the needs of the district.

Copies of reports of all samples taken by the Board are forwarded to this department. We are grateful for all the information passed to us by the Board.

Samples of water are taken in schools by the County Public Health Department. Copies of these reports are received.

There are a number of small private supplies. Inspection of these and sampling of the water is carried out as necessary.

The amount of fluoride present naturally is negligible.

National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951

No action was necessary under section 47 of the 1948 Act, or under the (Amendment) Act, 1951, for the removal and detention of persons in need of care and attention.

No burials took place under section 50 of the 1948 Act.

JOHN WILDMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1967.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1966

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Herewith I submit my report on the work of the Public Health Department during the year ended 31st December, 1966.

SEWERAGE

CHALLABOROUGH. Conditions remain most unsatisfactory at Challaborough and steps have been taken to improve one private system dealing with a number of properties. It is hoped that the scheme proposed by the consultants will not be unduly delayed as a major sewerage scheme is urgently needed.

FROGMORE AND CHILLINGTON. The scheme for extending sewers at Chillington and Frogmore and the enlargement of the sewage works at Chillington should commence early in the New Year and be in operation in good time to cater for the proposed new school and housing development.

SOUTH POOL. The scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal at South Pool has now been completed and is functioning satisfactorily.

BIGBURY-ON-SEA. Maintenance of the sea outfall has been delayed pending the construction of a new outfall in conjunction with the Challaborough scheme.

LODDISWELL. Although a scheme for Loddiswell has been prepared for some considerable time no progress has been made in starting the necessary works. The disposal works remain unsatisfactory due to overloading and insufficient treatment.

STOKE FLEMING. The consultants have been asked to prepare a scheme for extending sewers and treating sewage discharged through the sea outfalls at Stoke Fleming. There will probably be some delay in finalising a scheme pending the publication of the development plan for this village.

WEST ALVINGTON. In view of the proposals of the Urban District Council to construct a sewage disposal works for Kingsbridge, consideration was given to the possibility of draining the sewage from West Alvington to Kingsbridge for treatment. The existing works at West Alvington are obselete and overloaded. Agreement has been reached in principle by the two Authorities and in due course consultants will be asked to prepare a scheme for gravitating sewage from West Alvington, and for catering for the development at Tacket Wood, en route to the Kingsbridge trunk sewer.

WEST BUCKLAND. The consultants have been asked to submit proposals for dealing with this area. The topography of the area presents difficulties particularly regarding a disposal works site, and it is probable that ultimate proposals will include for the pumping of sewage from this area to Thurlestone.

This in turn may lead to proposals to utilise the South Milton site for treatment purposes thereby disposing of a crude sea outfall at Thurlestone. I am quite convinced that in general a policy of grouping adjoining districts for sewage purposes will prove more efficient, and, in the long term, more economical.

MAINTENANCE. Two mobile gangs are employed in maintaining sewers and sewage disposal systems. This seems the only practical way of dealing with maintenance, but because of the number of works and the fact that they are so scattered, a great deal of time is, of necessity, wasted in travelling, and on occasions when breakdowns occur, the service is stretched to breaking point. In the advent of more works coming into operation it will become necessary to employ an additional gang.

HOUSING

Progress in dealing with unfit houses has been maintained, the numbers represented being similar to last year. The increase in the number of houses demolished was due to the clearance of an area at Frogmore.

Apart from Malborough, where action is to be taken shortly to represent a number of dwellings, unfit houses still in existence are scattered and few in number, and the families displaced arising from formal action on these properties could be re-housed through casual vacancies occurring in Council property.

The number of unfit houses made fit was precisely the same as the previous year. The demand for such properties remains as keen as ever and every assistance is given in an endeavour to bring such properties up to standard and thereby retain the character of the villages and hamlets.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The number of applications for discretionary and standard grants show a marked decline during the year, although the number of grants paid almost doubled.

There is still a great deal of work to be done in providing modern amenities in properties throughout the district and I hope this can be accomplished by persuasive means rather than by formal action.

MEAT INSPECTION

There was a substantial increase in the number of carcases inspected with a resultant increase in the number of visits having to be made to the slaughterhouses. Fortunately the quality of animals killed is extremely high and the percentage affected by disease relatively small.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Due to lack of staff very little work was done in connection with caravan sites.

One large site is in existence at Beesands where due to legal arguments, site licence conditions have not been enforced. I think it is high time the issues were resolved one way or the other so that official action can be brought under the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Acts, to enable this site to be brought up to the high standard of other sites in the district.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The amount of refuse collected per annum continues to rise. This can be attributed to the increase in the number of houses built every year, and the inescapable fact that the quantity of refuse per house is also steadily increasing. When one considers that a number of goods have three separate wrappings this is not surprising.

The tips at Fuge and Hangman's Cross are rapidly approaching saturation point and conditions at the latter are far from satisfactory.

A report will be submitted in due course on the whole problem of collection and disposal and I think it is only fair to indicate that the cost of this service is bound to rise if a weekly service is to be maintained and disposal is to be carried out in a proper manner.

LITTER

The collection and disposal of litter still remains a challenge. I believe that conditions are improving slowly but a problem will always remain as long as the general public are apathetic and blatantly indifferent to the spoilation of the beaches and countryside.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The number of inspections made during the year showed a marked fall. This was due to my prolonged illness and I would like to take this opportunity of recording my appreciation to the Council and Staff for their kindness and consideration during my illness. I think that Mr. Brice and Mrs. Hingley coped manfully during my absence and I know they received the full support of other departments, particularly that of the Clerk's.

It would be unfair to criticise the lack of work done, particularly in certain fields such as Food Hygiene, and more particularly when, during the year, a successful prosecution was taken under the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations on the proprietors of a guest house at Bigbury-on-Sea, which resulted in fines totalling £49 8s. 0d. being imposed, but this was an isolated case and there still remains a tremendous amount of work to be done in connection with all food premises.

Sewerage and sewage disposal is another section administered by the department which really needs more time devoted to it. I think it fair to point out that the office and technical staff has remained the same for the past eighteen years whereas the outdoor staff controlled by the department has increased from six to sixteen. This does reflect on the much greater volume of work done, quite apart from such things as Improvement Grants and Caravan Sites which are administered by the office staff.

Arising out of this I would like to sow the seed in members minds that the time is approaching when consideration should be given to the employment of additional help; not necessarily a qualified Public Health Inspector, but possibly a technical a assistant.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

D. J. COLE,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

October, 1967.

A P P E N D I X

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1966

Table 1

Figures for 1965 are shown in brackets

POPULATION:

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Kingsbridge Rural District

11,810 (11,600)

Natural increase or decrease	-1
Migration in or out	+211
Total increase or decrease	+210
Population at 1961 Census	11,738

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area of Kingsbridge Rural District in Acres

70,818

Number of Houses according to Rate Books

Total number of Houses	4,691
Number of Houses per acre	0.066
Number of Persons per acre	0.166
Number of Inhabited Houses	4,562
Number of Persons per House	2.58
Dwellings owned by the Council	714

Rateable Value of District

£333,725 (£333,083)

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate

£1,317

Table 2

Figures for 1965 are shown in brackets

BIRTHS:

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population ..	16.32
Area Comparability Factor for Births	1.22

Number of Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Total	89	69	158
Legitimate	77	64	141
Illegitimate	12	5	17
Number of Still Births	2	-	2

DEATHS:

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population	10.76
Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	0.80

Number of Deaths

	Males	Females	Total
All Ages - Total	87	72	159
Deaths of Infants under 1 yr.	2	-	2
Number under 4 weeks of age	2	-	2
Number under 1 week of age	1	-	1

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births ..	12.66

COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Birth Rate 17.7 (18.1) Death Rate 11.7 (11.5)

Infantile Mortality Rate 19.0 (19.0)
(Infants under 1 year of age)

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1966

Line No.		Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	1	-
2.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-
3.	Syphilitic Disease	-	1
4.	Diptheria	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-
6.	Meningoccal Infections	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	-
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ..	9	1
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	4
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	1
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	3	9
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-
16.	Diabetes	-	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	12	12
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	28	9
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	1	2
20.	Other Heart Disease	9	10
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	3	-
22.	Influenza	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	8	9
24.	Bronchitis	3	3
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	1
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	-	-
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	-	-
31.	Congenital Malformations	2	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	2	8
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-
34.	All other Accidents	1	-
35.	Suicide	-	-
36.	Homicide and Operations of War ..	-	-
	Totals	87	72

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: Cases Notified During 1966

Table 1

DISEASE	TOTAL	Age Group in Years: Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65
Measles	11	-	2	6	2	1	-
Tuberculosis (Lungs)	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
Whooping Cough	9	3	2	4	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
Pueperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	1	-

Table 2

DISEASE	TOTAL	Incidence by Quarters: 1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Measles	11	1	3	5	2
Tuberculosis (Lungs)	2	2	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	9	4	4	1	-
Scarlet Fever	2	1	1	-	-
Pueperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	1	-

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION

In accordance with the requirements of the World Health Regulations certificates of Small pox and Cholera vaccinations in respect of persons travelling abroad were authenticated by the Public Health Department.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1966

Collection and Disposal of Refuse	102
Litter Act	6
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	114
Visits in connection with complaints	50
Infectious Disease	11
Inspections of Caravan Sites	31
Houses inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts	242
Pests	14
Food Premises (Shops, Dairies, Hotels, etc.)	20
Public Conveniences	1
Rodent Control	8
Ice Cream Samples	4
Water Samples	30
Improvement Grants	129
Wrecks of the Sea	2
Slaughter of Animals Act	4
Petroleum Regulations	9
Dangerous Buildings	11
Drainage	30
Miscellaneous	68
Water Supplies	5
Food Inspection	9
Rent Act	-
Waste Food Order	2
Factories	5
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	-
Animal Boarding Establishment Act	3
Streams and Watercourses	3
Total	913

MEAT INSPECTION

During the year 431 visits were made to slaughterhouses.

The following carcases were inspected:

Cows	11
Heifers	55
Steers	228
Calves	79
Sheep	2814
Pigs	165
Total	3352

The total weight of meat condemned was 2 tons 6 cwts. 17 lbs.

Diseased meat, etc. is collected by arrangement and converted into glues and fertilisers.

The income from meat inspection charges amounted to £115 9s. 6d.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	283	11	79	2814	165	-
Number inspected	283	11	79	2814	165	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:						
Whole carcases condemned	1	5	7	11	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	43	5	3	93	22	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ..	15.54	90.9	12.78	3.69	13.33	-
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned ..	-	-	-	-	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected and affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.60	-
Cysticercosis:						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	3	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

OTHER FOODS

The following table indicates the number of food premises in the area, by type of business:

Bakehouses	6
Butchers' Shops	12
Fishmongers and Fryers ..	1
Ice Cream - Retailers ..	84
General Stores	63
Dairies	3
Restaurants and Cafes ..	23
Hotels, etc.	63
Inns	41
Sweet Confectioners ..	8

REGISTRATION OF PREMISES UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955:

Sale of Ice Cream ..	84
Manufacture of Preserved Food	10
Amount of food condemned during the year ..	52 lbs. 14 oz.
Number of new registrations under Section 16 ..	1

ICE CREAM SAMPLING:

Grade 1	4
Grade 2	-
Grade 3	-
Grade 4	-

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

LICENSED SITES AND CARAVANS

No. of Sites	No. of Caravans licensed	Licensed Individual Caravans
31	1181	15

8 sites, each with a maximum of five caravans, are exempt by virtue of membership of the Caravan Club.

In addition there are two other mobile caravan sites run by the Caravan and Camping Clubs.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	No. in Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupier Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (Factories without mechanical power)	3	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Factories with mechanical power)	27	3	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	30	5	-	-

No defects were found.

There is one out-worker.

RODENT CONTROL

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	NON-AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL
1. Number of properties in district	3,971	845
2(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	504	36
2(b) Number of properties inspected in Section 2(a) which were found to be infested by:		
(i) Rats	327	35
(ii) Mice	16	1
3(a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	880	69
3(b) Number of properties inspected in Section 3(a) which were found to be infested by:		
(i) Rats	597	41
(ii) Mice	10	5

SEWERS:

No sewers were found to be infested during the year.

WATER SUPPLIES

Parish	No. of Habitable Houses	No. connected to Water Mains	Estimated Population served
Aveton Gifford ..	236	171	427
Bigbury	209	179	447
Blackawton	169	116	290
Buckland-tout-Saints	56	37	92
Charleton	135	115	287
Chivelstone ..	143	116	290
Churchstow	111	69	172
East Allington ..	145	106	265
East Portlemouth ..	108	89	222
Kingston	123	103	257
Loddiswell	246	236	590
Malborough	287	233	582
Modbury	379	323	807
Ringmore	94	92	230
Sherford	99	72	180
Slapton	167	145	362
South Huish	219	175	437
South Milton ..	140	134	325
South Pool	105	77	192
Stoke Fleming ..	318	276	690
Stokenham	575	506	1265
Strete	158	135	337
Thurlestone	313	248	620
West Alvington ..	187	154	385
Woodleigh	54	38	95
Totals ..	*4776	*3945	*9846

*These figures relate to houses in existence on 31st December, 1966.

WATER SAMPLES

Source of Sample	No. satisfactory	No. unsatisfactory	Total
**South Devon Water Board Mains	316	2	318
Private Supplies	9	24	33
Totals	325	26	351

**These figures include samples of water not in supply to consumers.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, 1966

GRANTS FOR THE CONVERSION OR IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSING ACCOMMODATION

SECTION 30 HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958

	Formal applications received	Applications approved	
	Number of dwellings	Number of dwellings	Amount of grant
(a) Conversions	3	Owner occupied dwellings 4) Other dwellings -)	£ 3190
(b) Improvements	8	Owner occupied dwellings 2) Other dwellings 2)	

STANDARD GRANTS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS UNDER HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959

(a) Applications

Formal applications received	Applications approved
13	Owner occupied dwellings 12 Other dwellings 8

(b) Grants Paid

Number of dwellings	Total amount	Number of amenities provided					
		Bath or shower	Wash basins	Hot water	Water closets	Food Store	Septic tanks
23	£4179.0.1	19	21	23	20	20	5

HOUSES DEALT WITH AS INDIVIDUAL UNFIT OR SLUM CLEARANCE AREAS

Represented	19
Confirmed	19
Not confirmed ..	-
Demolished	7
Families re-housed	12
Unfit Houses made fit	10

COUNCIL HOUSE PROPERTY AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1966

	Houses	Bungalows	Flats	Prefabs	Houses Purchased and Reconditioned	Totals
No. of pre-war houses erected	67	2	-	-	-	69
No. of post-war houses erected up to 1965	441	122	11	23	9	606
No. of houses completed in 1966	-	29	10	-	-	39
Houses in course of construction December, 1966	1	30	20	-	-	51
Totals	509	183	41	23	9	765